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ATTORNEY'S SOCKET NUMBER  
067439.0138

PATENT APPLICATION  
10/697,485

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Edward J. Stashluk, Jr. et al  
Serial No.: 10/697,485  
Filing Date: October 30, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 1733  
Confirmation No.: 7404  
Title: MERCHANDISE RETURN SYSTEM WITH VALUE ADDED  
RETURNS PROCESSING (DATA COMMUNICATIONS)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

*Sandra Muller*

Sandra Muller

*1/7/05*  
Date of Signature

**REQUEST FOR STATUS**

Please advise of the status of the above-identified patent application. The last item received by Applicants was an Updated Filing Receipt, dated June 8, 2004. Applicants are currently awaiting a first Office Action.

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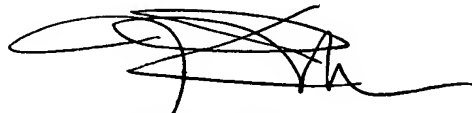
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REMARKS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(a)(1), it has been over fourteen months since the filing date of this Application and neither a Notification under 35 U.S.C. § 132 nor a Notice of Allowance under 35 U.S.C. § 151 have been received. Thus, a period of adjustment of patent term due to examination delay is accruing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(a)(1).

If there are any matters that can be resolved through a telephone conference, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants



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Date: January 7, 2005

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